

Primary payer means, when used in the context in which Medicare is the secondary payer, any entity that is or was required or responsible to make payment with respect to an item or service (or any portion thereof) under a primary plan. These entities include, but are not limited to, insurers or self-insurers, third party administrators, and all employers that sponsor or contribute to group health plans or large group health plans.

Primary payment means, when used in the context in which Medicare is the secondary payer, payment by a primary payer for services that are also covered under Medicare.

Primary plan means, when used in the context in which Medicare is the secondary payer, a group health plan or large group health plan, a workers' compensation law or plan, an automobile or liability insurance policy or plan (including a self-insured plan), or no-fault insurance.

Prompt or promptly, when used in connection with primary payments, except as provided in § 411.50, for payments by liability insurers, means payment within 120 days after receipt of the claim.

Proper claim means a claim that is filed timely and meets all other claim filing requirements specified by the plan, program, or insurer.

Secondary, when used to characterize Medicare benefits, means that those benefits are payable only to the extent that payment has not been made and cannot reasonably be expected to be made under other coverage that is primary to Medicare.

Secondary payments means payments made for Medicare covered services or portions of services that are not payable under other coverage that is primary to Medicare.

[54 FR 41734, Oct. 11, 1989, as amended at 60 FR 45361, Aug. 31, 1995; 71 FR 9470, Feb. 24, 2006]

§ 411.22 Reimbursement obligations of primary payers and entities that received payment from primary payers.

(a) A primary payer, and an entity that receives payment from a primary payer, must reimburse CMS for any payment if it is demonstrated that the

primary payer has or had a responsibility to make payment.

(b) A primary payer's responsibility for payment may be demonstrated by—

(1) A judgment;

(2) A payment conditioned upon the recipient's compromise, waiver, or release (whether or not there is a determination or admission of liability) of payment for items or services included in a claim against the primary payer or the primary payer's insured; or

(3) By other means, including but not limited to a settlement, award, or contractual obligation.

(c) The primary payer must make payment to either of the following:

(1) To the entity designated to receive repayments if the demonstration of primary payer responsibilities is other than receipt of a recovery demand letter from CMS or designated contractor.

(2) As directed in a recovery demand letter.

[71 FR 9470, Feb. 24, 2006, as amended at 73 FR 9684, Feb. 22, 2008]

§ 411.23 Beneficiary's cooperation.

(a) If CMS takes action to recover conditional payments, the beneficiary must cooperate in the action.

(b) If CMS's recovery action is unsuccessful because the beneficiary does not cooperate, CMS may recover from the beneficiary.

§ 411.24 Recovery of conditional payments.

If a Medicare conditional payment is made, the following rules apply:

(a) *Release of information.* The filing of a Medicare claim by on or behalf of the beneficiary constitutes an express authorization for any entity, including State Medicaid and workers' compensation agencies, and data depositories, that possesses information pertinent to the Medicare claim to release that information to CMS. This information will be used only for Medicare claims processing and for coordination of benefits purposes.

(b) *Right to initiate recovery.* CMS may initiate recovery as soon as it learns that payment has been made or could be made under workers' compensation, any liability or no-fault insurance, or an employer group health plan.